

# HAVURAT YISRAEL WEEKLY NEWS

8 Shevat 5777

Shabbat Bo

Feb. 3- 4, 2017

## Shabbat Shalom!

4:58 pm Candle Lighting  
5:05 pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat

Torah p. 340 Haftarah p. 1151  
9:00 am Shacharit  
9:33 am Latest Shema  
11:00 am Drasha — Rabbi Kraft  
4:30 pm Talk on the Parasha — Rabbi Levy  
4:50 pm Mincha, Seudah Shlisheet  
5:58 pm Maariv, Havdalah

**Kiddush** is sponsored by Yael & Gary Emmanuel celebrating Gary's birthday. Mazal Tov!

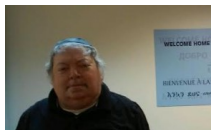
**Seudah Shlisheet** Sponsorship Available

## The Following Kiddush Dates are Already Booked!

- ☆ 2/11 Rabbi David & Tamara Algaze, Mehran & Claudia Arasheben & Rafi Katz
  - ☆ 2/18 Rafi Katz
  - ☆ 2/25 Shoshi Bacon & Steve Golub
  - ☆ 3/4 Arlene Ross & Michelle Polonetsky.
  - ☆ 3/11 Louis & Rachel Ordentlich
  - ☆ 3/18 Carolina Barrios
- Reserve your Kiddush date soon!**

## Olim News

**Mazal Tov** to Ephraim Grossbien who made Aliyah to Yerushalayim this week!



**Mazal Tov** to Yakov Merkin who completed his Kibbutz / Ulpan course and moved to an apartment in Haifa!



## Looking for Recipes!!



The HY Sisterhood is preparing a Kosher Cook Book. Please email us your favorites recipes to the office!

## Bikur Cholim

- ☆ Fred Isaac (718-793-2452)
- ☆ Stuart Greenberg (Margaret Tietz Rehabilitation Center, 164-11 Chapin Parkway in Jamaica – room 231 / 917 318-5677).
- ☆ Rabbi Meir Havazelet has returned to the Atria Kew Gardens, 117-01 84th Ave.

New!!

New!!

## HAVURAT YISRAEL PRESENTS Kodesh Press Speakers Series 2017

**Bagels & Coffee at 9 a.m. / talks at 9:30 a.m. / Suggested Donation \$10**

- ◆ Sunday, February 26 — Rabbi Zev Reichman: Spiritual Messages from Purim and the Megillah
- ◆ Sunday, March 26 — Rabbi Dr. Gidon Rothstein: Insights for a Meaningful Passover Experience
- ◆ Sunday, April 30 — Dr. Shoshannah Brombacher: Jewish Art & Spirituality: Why Is This Art Different from all Other Art?
- ◆ Sunday, May 21 — Rabbi Jack (Yaakov) Bieler: What Are the Defining Principles of the Torah?

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**Tu Bishvat Shabbat Dinner**  
Friday, February 10th

**Shabbat Dinner and Tu Bishvat Seder with Rabbi Algaze**

Members: \$25 Not-yet members \$30  
Reserve by Wed. February 8th.

**Rabbi Yehuda Oppenheimer and his wife will join us for Shabbat Dinner — Tu Bishvat and Shabbat, before they leave Forest Hills. Be'Hazlacha Rabah!!**

Contributions to the Tu Bishvat dinner have been made by Miriam Levy in memory of her mother and by Seymour Kaplan.

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## ATTENTION: ALL JEWISH CHILDREN

### AGES 5 TO 11!

Congregation Havurat Yisrael is proud to announce a **Mitzvah Essay Project!**

You do not have to have any previous knowledge of Judaism, nor do your parents have to be members of our congregation or have any affiliation to participate. All you have to do is write a composition of 10 words or more describing a Mitzvah that you performed.

A Mitzvah is a good deed of any kind. If you are not able to write the composition yourself, it is fine to dictate it and have someone write it for you. It can be written in any language that you wish.

All children submitting a composition to Havurat Yisrael that is received by **February 9, 2017**, will be eligible to participate in a **free** pizza and ice cream party on February 12, 2017! You may be accompanied by an adult.



| SUNDAY<br>Feb. 5 / 9 Shevat  | MONDAY<br>Feb. 6 / 10 Shevat  | TUESDAY<br>Feb. 7 / 11 Shevat                                   | WEDNESDAY<br>Feb. 8 / 12 Shevat  | THURSDAY<br>Feb. 9 / 13 Shevat                                  | FRIDAY<br>Feb. 10 / 14 Shevat  |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| 7:30 am Amud Yomi<br>8:00 am Shacharit<br>10:15 am Torah Class in Spanish. R. Algaze-Skype<br>11:00 am Rabbi Kraft's Class | 6:20 am Amud Yomi<br>6:50 am Shacharit<br><b>1:00 pm Mincha</b><br>7:30 pm Hebrew Class with Morah Chanah Hochman<br>8:00 pm —NO Torah Class at the Ordentlich home. — Rabbi Algaze | 6:20 am Amud Yomi<br>6:50 am Shacharit<br><b>1:00 pm Mincha</b> | 6:20 am Amud Yomi<br>6:50 am Shacharit<br><b>1:00 pm Mincha</b><br><b>6:30 pm Judaism Class with David Alkalay. Free Class</b> | 6:20 am Amud Yomi<br>6:50 am Shacharit<br><b>1:00 pm Mincha</b> | 6:20 am Amud Yomi<br>6:50 am Shacharit<br>8:30 am Hebrew Class with Efrat<br>5:06 pm Candle Lighting<br>5:15 pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat, Maariv<br>Tu Bishvat Dinner (by reservation) |

## **FREE CHOICE AND G-D'S DESIGN**

by Rabbi David Algaze

*"But I shall harden Pharaoh's heart and I shall multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt. Pharaoh will not heed you and I shall put My hand upon Egypt" (Shemot 7:3-4)*

One would think that it is unfair, if not altogether unethical, to punish someone for committing a crime involuntarily. Even more troubling is to bring disaster upon a nation for actions or decisions imposed on them from the outside. "Would the Judge of the whole world not do justice?" as Abraham asked. How could G-d punish Pharaoh for not heeding Moses when it was He who prevented his repenting?

The world that G-d created is a world where free choice is a universal law for all human beings. This is the meaning of Man having been created in the image of G-d. How then can one understand G-d's "hardening" of Pharaoh's heart? Some commentators have explained that G-d did not inhibit Pharaoh from repenting. Rather, He simply wanted him to repent sincerely and abide by His commandment willingly and not because of the pain he was feeling under the plagues. The strengthening of his heart was merely like a painkiller that permitted Pharaoh to make his own decision freely.

The problem with this explanation is that later in the narrative, G-d makes His intention even more transparent. Before the last series of plagues, G-d orders Moshe to go to Pharaoh and prefaces His statement saying *"For I have made his heart and the heart of his servants stubborn so that I can put these signs of Mine in his midst."* (ib. 10:1) Here there can be no other explanation of the hardening of Pharaoh's heart other than that it was G-d's intention that Pharaoh not repent and not heed His words in order that G-d could display His power over Egypt. Pharaoh is then only a puppet in His hands and thus he would appear not responsible for his actions. How could a just G-d do this? Where is the human free choice that G-d planted in the universe?

Maimonides (Hilchot Teshuva 6:3) explains that if a person commits many sins repeatedly, "the Judge of Truth provides that repentance be foreclosed for him and that he be not permitted the right to repent from his wickedness, so that he will die and be lost because of the sin he committed." Although repentance is open to everyone there are exceptions when the sinner has committed acts so egregious that it would be unfair to let such a person escape the punishment he deserves. It would be wholly unfair that a Hitler should avoid his deserved punishment by repenting in one moment. Justice provides in such cases that certain people be prevented from repenting so that they get their proper retribution. Yet, this explanation too has the difficulty of understanding why did G-d ask Moshe to request from Pharaoh the release of Israel if it was already preordained that Pharaoh would not obey?

In reality, the principle of free choice is an axiom in the universe and cannot be suspended. In the case of Pharaoh the Midrash accepts that he ultimately repented of his own free will and he recognized G-d's greatness. We have to assume that G-d did not coerce Pharaoh at all and that He let him act with his freedom of choice. The hardening of his heart may be explained in the following manner. Just as there are physical laws of the universe, so there are psychological and spiritual rules. One of these immutable laws is that when a person commits a sin over and over again, the sin deposits in the doer a spiritual force that makes it easier to do the same act again. This creates a disposition that enables a person to replicate his actions leading to the development of his nature and character. When G-d said that "I will harden Pharaoh's heart" the reference was to that universal law of psychological development. In the world that G-d created, Pharaoh's own actions would lead him to develop a nature that will become obdurate and recalcitrant

and not respond to any pressure to change. Indeed, during the first five plagues G-d did not interfere with Pharaoh at all. In every one of the first five plagues, the Torah accurately describes Pharaoh's actions as his own. After the plague of blood it says, "And the heart of Pharaoh's was strong" (ib. 7:22) without any reference to G-d. The same applied to the following four plagues, including the fifth plague after which it says, "The heart of Pharaoh became stubborn" (ib. 9:7) Only from the sixth plague on we hear that G-d strengthened Pharaoh's heart. That proves that the psychological law of character development was applied and that is the basic meaning of "G-d strengthened the heart of Pharaoh." It simply describes a natural occurrence that after a person chooses a course of action, his temperament will be affected accordingly. Otherwise, how can we understand G-d's question to Pharaoh, "Until when you shall refuse to humble yourself before Me?" Clearly, G-d had given Pharaoh the full function of his freedom.

The question is why does G-d announce that He will harden Pharaoh's heart and even more poignantly, why does He proclaim that there is a purpose, namely to imprint in the mind of the people and the whole world that G-d has power over nature and that He is the sovereign of the world? That implies there is a grand Design, pre-ordained and fore planned and that seems to conflict with the concept of free choice.

The answer is that human free choice and G-d's design need not be in conflict. This may be the lesson of these verses: Man may act freely and without any coercion and yet G-d can weave his acts into a pattern that will be in accordance with His original Design and Plan. In a manner beyond our comprehension, G-d has the capacity of integrating our human choices into His design and make our human actions fit into His Plan. This is what G-d means as He says that He will harden Pharaoh's heart at the beginning. G-d knows that Pharaoh's actions and response to events will be integrated into the pattern that G-d had planned. Although Pharaoh will act freely, nonetheless all his acts will ultimately fit perfectly into G-d's original Plan. This is one of the mysteries of G-d's conduct of the world. In modern mathematics, we find a similar phenomenon in the case of fractals where random functions of small parts may nonetheless not affect the exactitude of the whole. G-d has the power of making our actions fit into His grand Design without robbing us of our precious gift of free choice.

The lesson to learn here is that our acts are never coerced by any exterior force and that all our acts, small or large, are part of a Grand Design that affects the entire universe. For this reason we have to view all our acts as having a cosmic influence and not to belittle any of our actions. Every act we make is important. No action by us is irrelevant. This is G-d's greatest gift to us.

**Refuah Shlema** to Yosef ben Chava (Fred Isaac), Sara Ester bat Rivka (Esther Rubin), Jonah ben Yehudit, Naomi Malka bat Hoshana Leah, Batya Tiferet bat Naomi Malka, Arella bat Zahava, Eileen Alter (Alte Esther Riva bat Devorah Shifra), Shoshi Bacon, Stuart Greenberg (Zalman Mordechai Yitzchak Ha-Levi ben Alta Chana), Adina Chai Bat Leah HaRav Moshe Meir ben Menucha Yocheved (Rabbi Havazelet), David Lieberman.

**Please support David Alkalay's new restaurant  
Heart Beet Eatery , 100-05 Metropolitan Ave (VHQ)**

Follow **Rabbi Algaze** on **J-APP** for the latest shiurim, divrei Torah, more. Available in the app stores.



## Havurat Yisrael Classes

| Havurat Yisrael Kiddush Menu & Prices |   |              |                  |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------|------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Type                                  | Includes:   | Member Price | Non-Member Price | Per sponsor price if 2 sponsors | Per sponsor price if 3 or more sponsors |
| A                                     | Basic Kiddush<br>Wine, Cake, Herring, Soda, Crackers                              | \$225        | \$300            | \$150                           | \$125                                   |
| B                                     | Salad Kiddush<br>Basic kiddush plus 4 salads                                      | \$400        | \$500            | \$250                           | \$200                                   |
| C                                     | Kugel & Salad Kiddush<br>Basic Kiddush plus 3 Kugels & 4 salads                   | \$475        | \$600            | \$300                           | \$250                                   |
| D                                     | Chulent & Kugel Kiddush<br>Basic Kiddush plus 2 kuggels, 4 salads & Chulent       | \$600        | \$700            | \$400                           | \$300                                   |
| E                                     | Deluxe Chulent & Kugel Kiddush<br>Basic Kiddush plus 4 kugels, 6 salads & Chulent | \$800        | \$900            | \$500                           | \$400                                   |

### HOW LITERATE ARE YOU IN JEWISH LITERATURE? COME TO PARTICIPATE IN A A JOURNEY THROUGH OUR LITERARY HISTORY

*Special seminar at the Ordentlich home led by Rabbi Algaze*

**Mondays at 8 pm**

A journey through all the tractates of the Talmud with commentaries and insights from Rabbis from the Geonic Period to the present time. Become familiar with the rich literature of the Jewish people and enrich your knowledge and spirit!

This is an opportunity that should not be missed.

### JUDAISM

with David Alkalay  
Wednesdays at 6:30 pm  
Starting February 1st



- ☆ Belief in G-d
- ☆ Prayer
- ☆ The Sabbath
- ☆ Jewish Observance
- ☆ Sexuality
- ☆ Free classes

### Rabbi Algaze's Insights into the Weekly Parasha

Classes will resume in March  
**Wednesdays at 8 pm.**

Join for an exploration of the Biblical text, explaining Hebrew words and insights from our sages.

### Introduction to Jewish Thought

**Rabbi Kraft**

Sundays at 11 am

### LEARN HEBREW! **New time!!**

- ☆ With an experienced Israeli teacher, Efrat Amira. Classes will be held Friday at 8:30am. 10 classes: Fee \$250
- ☆ Free Hebrew Reading Class Mondays at 7:30pm with Mora Chana Hochman

### Toddler Time! (resumes March 3rd)

#### Getting Ready for Shabbat with Frida



This Early Childhood Educational Program, run by a professional educator, offers great cooperative group play which develops

- ◇ Language skills (English, Hebrew Russian), - Social skills - Listening skills with emphasis on following 1-2-3 step directions
- ◇ Abstract thinking such as imagination development through classical music, activities, games, - Nursery rhymes flannel board stories etc.

The program will be held on Fridays @ 11 am.  
Package: 5 sessions for \$115 p/family  
\$25 at the door p/family

## THE BUILDING NEEDS SOME IMPORTANT ITEMS

### —AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE AND HONOR

Although our building is almost complete, we are not fully equipped and some items are not in place. These are special opportunities available for sponsorship and they will make our stay more pleasant and easy if we obtain them before or soon after we move in. If you are interested in helping us with the following items, please contact the office or our Rabbi. Every item may be dedicated in memory or in honor of a loved one and will be recognized appropriately.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Bookcases for the Library  | 5. Memorial tablets                           |
| 2. Shelves for siddurim and chumashim for the sanctuary (Women's side and Men's side) | 6. Tree of Life (Etz Chaim)                   |
| 3. Racks for tallitot   | 7. Ner Tamid                                  |
| 4. Computer calendar for announcements  | 8. Books for the Library (Hebrew and English) |

## THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY—DO NOT MISS IT

*"They shall make a sanctuary that I may dwell among them." (Shemot 25:8) At this time and in this place we have the special privilege to participate in the building of our "small sanctuary" (miqdash me'at)—the new building of Havurat Yisrael.*

Some have opened their hearts already with great generosity to enable us to reach this day and we thank them. Many have wanted to memorialize special people in their lives with a dedication that will last long in our new building. **Below is a list of items and areas that are still open for dedication**, some as low as \$3,000 and higher so that everyone can be a part of the building of the new Havurat. Please note that although the main building is near completion, there are still many things that are needed, such as appliances for the kitchen, furniture for the classrooms and synagogue, ner tamid, bookcases and so on. Please peruse through this list and select something we still need and do not have. The names of all contributors will be inscribed in the walls of the synagogue so that those names that you wish to memorialize will always be there with us. The Rabbis tell us, "When a mitzvah comes your way, do not let it pass by." Don't say the building is done and they don't need my help. We do. The time is now.

### **BUILDING COMMITTEE**

(donors of \$50,000 or more)

David & Debbie Sosnowik  
Louis & Rachel Ordentlich  
Rafael Katz  
Marc & Karen Rose  
Mark & Gail Silverman  
Edward Finfer  
Jane Stiefel  
Stu & Judy Rosen  
Fanny Seinuk  
Daniel and Carol Yaghoubian

### **DESIGN COMMITTEE**

(donors of \$20,000 or more)

Arlene Ross  
Maddy & Bernardo Drucker  
Ken Lewon  
Rachelle & David Alkalay  
Rabbi Joel & Chana Hochman  
Miriam & Bruce Jacobs  
Anne Biener  
Steve Golub & Shoshi Bacon

### **FURNISHINGS COMMITTEE**

(donors of \$10,000 or more)

Gabriela Linder & Tamara Algaze  
Renee & David Hirsch  
Seymour Kaplan  
Helen & William Kober  
Gary & Yael Emmanuel  
Michael Blau

### **SUPPLIES COMMITTEE**

(donors of \$5,000 or more)

Jay Waitzman  
Eileen Alter

## Dedication Opportunities

*11 of Honor will be designed for the main lobby listing all gifts*

### **Main Components**

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Center for Jewish Life Name Dedication | 1,000,000                        |
| The Sanctuary                          | Dedicated by Stuart & Judy Rosen |
| Social Hall                            | 150,000                          |
| Library                                | 100,000                          |
| Beit Midrash                           | 150,000                          |

### **The Center for Jewish Life Building**

|                             |                                      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Main Entrance Lobby         | 100,000                              |
| Main Mezuzah                | 36,000                               |
| Shoah Memorial              | 50,000                               |
| Tree of Life                | 50,000                               |
| Administrative Office       | 50,000                               |
| Rabbi's Study               | 50,000                               |
| Outdoor Garden/ Sukkah area | Dedicated by Marc & Karen Rose       |
| Inner Mezuzot (each)        | 3,000                                |
| (1) mezuzah                 | dedicated by Naomi Rodriguez         |
| (2) mezuzah                 | dedicated by Michael and Alice James |
| (3) mezuzah                 | 3,000                                |
| Kitchen                     | 50,000                               |

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### **Beit Midrash**

|                                      |                        |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Bet Hamidrash Aron Kodesh            | 100,000                |
| Ner Tamid                            | 18,000                 |
| Learning Tables--each                | 5,000                  |
| Bookshelves--each                    | 18,000                 |
| Bookshelves (2)                      | dedicated by Rafi Katz |
| Shulchan (Bet Midrash)               | 26,000                 |
| Computer Center (Bar Ilan Installed) | 18,000                 |

### **The Sanctuary**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Aron Kodesh                                 | Dedicated by the Sosnowik family        |
| Bimah                                       | Dedicated by Rachel & Louis Ordentlich  |
| Women's Section                             | 100,000                                 |
| Ner Tamid                                   | 50,000                                  |
| Ner Tamid Bet Midrash                       | Dedicated                               |
| Mechitza                                    | 75,000                                  |
| Torah Reading Table                         | Dedicated by Fanny Seinuk               |
| Parochet                                    | 50,000                                  |
| Memorial Plaque (2)                         | each 36,000                             |
| Rabbi's Chair                               | Reserved                                |
| Netilat Yadaim Station                      | Reserved                                |
| Skylight                                    | 36,000                                  |
| Speaker's Podium                            | Dedicated by Steve Golub & Shoshi Bacon |
| Main Chandelier                             | 25,000                                  |
| Pillars (3)                                 | each 18,000                             |
| Window 1                                    | Dedicated by Helen Kober                |
| Window 2                                    | Dedicated by Feit family                |
| Window 3                                    | Dedicated by Anne Biener                |
| Sconces (6 available)                       | 5,000                                   |
| (1) dedicated by Rachel and Eliahu Krikheli |   |

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**Children's area** 100,000